

From: Kevin Ro/=WDC/Toyota_NY. Sent: 8/10/2007 4:31 AM.
To: [-] Michiteru Kato/=HINPO/TMC0@TMC0@TMCE@TOYOTA.
Cc: [-] .
Bcc: [-] Christopher Tinto/=WDC/Toyota_NY.
Subject: Re: URGENT - NHTSA to Upgrade ES350 Floor Mat Investigation.

Mitch, please enjoy your vacation and holiday! Please relax.

Kevin Ro
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Michiteru Kato
Sent: 08/10/2007 04:42 AM
To: Christopher Tinto/WDC/Toyota_NY@TOYOTA_NY@TOYOTA@TMCE
Cc: Kevin Ro; Chris Santucci; Hisaaki Kato/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY@TOYOTA@TMCE; Akira Kanatani/WDC/Toyota_NY@TOYOTA_NY@TOYOTA@TMCE
Subject: Re: URGENT - NHTSA to Upgrade ES350 Floor Mat Investigation

Sir,

This resume does not say anything, does it? I can't believe this is the EA opening resume. It seems that NHTSA couldn't close this investigation only due to the number of the crashes and injuries, but they might have no good idea to upgrade the investigation, so they just wrote up the facts.

Anyway I will discuss this in detail with Santucci after he come back.

Regards,

Mitch

宛先: Christopher Tinto/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY
cc: Akira Kanatani/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY, chris santucci, Christina Mullen/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY, Dan Robertson/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY, Dave Zellers, George Morino, hkato@tma.toyota.com, jiyunji_ogata@mail.toyota.co.jp, Kevin Ro/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY, Kirk Forsht, Megumi Suzuki/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY, Michiteru Kato/HINPO/TMC0@TMC0, shinichiro_ogata@mail.toyota.co.jp
件名: Re: URGENT - NHTSA to Upgrade ES350 Floor Mat Investigation

Folks:

As a follow up to yesterday's email on this subject, I received an unofficial copy of the upgrade resume for our information only (attached).

I was also told to expect that this would be released on NHTSA's website potentially as early at 8/11 (Saturday).

[attachment "INOA-EA08010-ForTMC.pdf" deleted by Kevin Ro/WDC/Toyota_NY]

Best Regards,
Chris

Chris Tinto

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Christopher Tinto/WDC/Toyota_NY

08/08/2007 05:00 PM

To jiyunji_ogata@mail.toyota.co.jp, Michiteru Kato/HINPO/TMC0@TMC0@TMCE@TOYOTA
cc George Morino, Dave Zellers, Kirk Forsht, shinichiro_ogata@mail.toyota.co.jp, Kevin
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Subject URGENT - NHTSA to Upgrade ES350 Floor Mat Investigation

FYI - I just received a "heads up" call from NHTSA regarding the agency's intention to upgrade the Preliminary investigation (PE07-016) into the Lexus ES350 All Weather Floor Mats to an Engineering Analysis (EA).

After reviewing Toyota's submission of June 11, as well as its own independent testing and field evaluation of incidents, the agency believes that it should upgrade based on the severity of the incidents (i.e. some high-speed, wide-open-throttle complaints), coupled with its latest count of 40 complaints, 8 crashes and 12 injuries.

Although NHTSA recognizes the efforts we have already made to alert dealers and owners of the potential interference issue (when the mats are incorrectly stacked), NHTSA also believes the design of the floor mat itself (weight, cut, fit) lends itself to causing unintended pedal application even when the mat is not stacked. In further conversation, although the agency can not legally 'prescribe' a fix, they felt that slightly modifying the existing mat may help alleviate the problem.

I expressed our appreciation for the heads up, as well as encouraged future close dialogue to attempt to come to a mutually acceptable solution.

We will forward the resume as soon as it becomes available, and at that time we will also try to find out when this is likely to become public, to gauge timing constraints for Q&A preparation.

Best Regards,
Chris

Chris Tinto

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